



ABILITY TO RETURN FOR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Purpose: Use this form to inform aging out youth about the ability to return for Extended Foster Care.

Directions: The caseworker prints two copies and then discusses this form with the aging out youth. The youth signs both copies indicating that the youth has received this information. The youth gets one copy. The caseworker and supervisor then sign the other copy, which is filed in the case record. Questions can be directed to EFC@dfps.state.tx.us.

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When you leave care at age 18, you will have court jurisdiction extended for six months to allow for a trial independence period. In some cases, court jurisdiction may be extended up to 12 months. During the trial independence period, you will be on your own. You will continue to receive Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) benefits, and transitional Medicaid support, but without caseworker support or involvement. Courts may schedule a court review hearing, but you will not be required to attend.

During this trial independence period, you can return for Extended Foster Care if you:

- sign or re-sign the appropriate forms;
- understand that court jurisdiction will be extended, if the court approves;
- are offered an available placement; and
- agree to participate in one or more of the Extended Foster Care activities, which include:
 1. Attending high school or a program leading to a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
 2. Attending an institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational or technical program. The number of hours enrolled must be consistent with your Transition Plan, and you must attend a minimum of six hours per semester.
 3. Participating in a program or activity that promotes or removes barriers to employment. The number of participation hours must be a minimum of 15 hours per week and be consistent with your Transition Plan.
 4. Being employed at least 80 hours per month.

If you have a documented medical condition that makes it impossible for you to participate in any of the activities described in numbers 1 through 4, you are exempt from this requirement.

If you are approved to return and are placed in Extended Foster Care, you will have 30 days to start at least one of the conditions of Extended Foster Care. If you do not, your foster care eligibility will end.

If you want to return for Extended Foster Care **after the trial independence period has ended**, you must contact regional PAL staff to discuss further and make arrangements.

SIGNATURES

Youth or Legal Guardian: X	Date Signed:
DFPS Caseworker: X	Date Signed:
DFPS Supervisor: X	Date Signed: